

TASIA J. SOMAS

MARCH 6, 1958.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. WALTER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2124]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2124) for the relief of Tasia J. Somas, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 1, at the end of the bill, strike out the period and add the following:

: *Provided*, That the natural parents of Tasia J. Somas shall not, by virtue of such parentage, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill, as amended, is to grant to the minor child adopted by a citizen of the United States the status of a nonquota immigrant which is the status normally enjoyed by alien minor children of United States citizens.

The bill has been amended in accordance with established precedents to provide that the natural parents of the beneficiary shall by virtue of this legislation not be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The beneficiary of the bill is a 13-year-old native and citizen of Greece who presently resides in Greece with her real parents, who agreed to the beneficiary's adoption. She was adopted in Sparta, Greece, on March 29, 1956, by Mr. and Mrs. John Somas of Gulfport, Miss. The adoptive father is a citizen of the United States and the adoptive mother, who is also the beneficiary's aunt, is a lawful perma-

nent resident of the United States. Information is to the effect that the adoptive parents are financially able to care for the beneficiary.

A letter, with attached memorandum, dated July 23, 1957, to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization with reference to the bill reads as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE,
Washington, D. C., July 23, 1957.

HON. JAMES O. EASTLAND,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR: In response to your request for a report relative to the bill (S. 2124) for the relief of Tasia J. Somas, there is attached a memorandum of information concerning the beneficiary. This memorandum has been prepared from the Immigration and Naturalization Service files relating to the beneficiary by the New Orleans, La., office of this Service, which has custody of those files.

The bill would grant nonquota status to the alien child pursuant to sections 101 (a) (27) (A) and 205 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, by providing that the child shall be considered the natural-born alien child of a United States citizen.

As a quota immigrant the child would be chargeable to the quota for Greece.

Sincerely,

J. M. SWING, *Commissioner.*

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FROM IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE FILES RE TASIA J. SOMAS BENEFICIARY OF S. 2124

Information concerning this case was obtained from Mr. John Somas, the beneficiary's adoptive parent.

The beneficiary was born on December 10, 1943, in Amikle, Sparta, Greece, and is a citizen of that country. She was adopted by Mr. John Somas and his wife, Zoesta, in Sparta, Greece, on March 29, 1956, with the consent of her parents. This adoption was authorized by the Court of First Instances of Sparta. Before her adoption, the beneficiary was known as Anastasia Stamatakos. Mrs. Somas is the beneficiary's aunt. The beneficiary resides with her parents, 1 brother and 2 sisters on a small farm in Greece. The beneficiary is a student in the sixth grade of elementary school.

Mr. John Somas is 72 years of age and a naturalized citizen of the United States. Mrs. Somas is 64 years of age and a lawful resident of the United States. They were married on January 7, 1935, in New Orleans, La. Each of them had been previously married. Mr. Somas' first marriage was terminated by the death of his wife in 1932. Mrs. Somas' first marriage was terminated by the death of her husband in 1934. No children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Somas from their first or second marriages. They reside in Gulfport, Miss. Mr. Somas is a retired grocer. He has an income of \$350 monthly from rental property. Mr. and

Mrs. Somas have assets valued at approximately \$60,000. They desire to raise and educate the beneficiary according to American standards and they have indicated that they intend to make her the heiress to their property.

A visa petition filed by Mr. and Mrs. Somas to accord the beneficiary fourth preference quota immigrant status was approved by this Service on June 25, 1956. However, quota numbers under the fourth preference portion of the quota for Greece, to which she is chargeable, are presently unavailable.

Senator James O. Eastland, the author of the bill, has submitted the following information in connection with the case:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 21, 1957.

HON. JAMES O. EASTLAND,
United States Senate.

DEAR SENATOR EASTLAND: I refer to your letter of March 4, 1957, concerning the desire of Mr. John Somas, 1721 30th Avenue, Gulfport, Miss., to have his adopted daughter, Miss Tasia J. Somas, granted permission to come to the United States from Greece. Reference is also made to the interim acknowledgment of your letter on March 5, 1957.

The files of this Office show that Mr. Somas' approved relative petition on the basis of which his adopted daughter is entitled to fourth preference status under the immigration quota for Greece in the issuance of an immigrant visa was received from the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Department of Justice on June 28, 1956, and was forwarded on July 6, 1956, to the American Embassy at Athens with authorization to grant the beneficiary the status approved for her. The approval of Mr. Somas' petition by the Immigration and Naturalization Service did not constitute an assurance that a visa would be issued to the young girl in question, but established only her status within the quota as the adopted daughter of an American citizen.

Unfortunately, the demand for visas against the immigration quota for Greece by persons entitled to first, second, and third preference status thereunder is now, and has been for a considerable period of time, heavy enough to absorb the entire annual quota, leaving no numbers available for fourth preference and nonpreference registrants and making a waiting period of indeterminate duration unavoidable in the cases of applicants in the latter two categories. Unless Miss Somas registered at an American consular office as an intending immigrant prior to June 14, 1956, the date Mr. Somas' petition was filed on her behalf, she is entitled to a registration priority as of that date.

While it is not possible to indicate with any degree of accuracy when the turns of fourth preference registrants with Miss Somas' registration priority date can be reached on the Greek quota waiting list, you may assure interested persons that the responsible consular officer at Athens will notify her promptly at such time as it is possible to take action on her visa application.

The information regarding the granting of immigrant visas, the allocation of such visas within the quotas, and oversubscribed immi-

gration quotas, which is contained in the enclosed Departmental leaflets may be of interest to Mr. Somas.

As the law does not provide for the issuance of visas to intending immigrants out of their turns because of hardship factors or extenuating circumstance which may exist in their cases, I regret to say that there is no administrative action which may be taken to expedite the issuance of an immigrant visa to Miss Somas.

Sincerely yours,

ROLLAND WELCH,
Director, Visa Office.

BILOXI, MISS., May 11, 1957.

JAMES O. EASTLAND,
*Committee on the Judiciary,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SIR: The Honorable Elmer Williams wrote to me to send you a statement concerning the adoption of Miss Tasia John Somas by Mr. John and Mrs. Zoetsa Somas of 1721 30th Avenue of Gulfport, Miss.

The young lady's name is Tasia John Somas and is the daughter of Mr. Demetri Stamatakos. The child's present address is Amikle, Sparta, Greece. The Court of First Instances of Sparta has acknowledged Tasia as the adopted child of Mr. and Mrs. John Somas to be considered as their common and genuine child requiring their surname. The court was held in Sparta on March 29, 1956. Mr. Somas has put in the petition to bring the child since 1955. He has no children of his own and would very much love to have Tasia as his own.

Thank you very much for your kind interest, I am,
Yours truly,

NICK THEO. VLAHOS.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (S. 2124), as amended, should be enacted.

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